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## **Verb and word order deficits in Swahili-English agrammatic speakers**

Abuom, Tom Onyango

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STELLINGEN

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**Verb and word order deficits in Swahili-English agrammatic speakers**

van

Tom O. Abuom

1. The general characteristics of agrammatism are universal and most often aphasia affects the grammatical aspects of a language at different levels of severity (Fabbro, 2001).
2. It is not always the case that the underlying deficit in bilingual individuals with Broca's aphasia causes different surface manifestations in languages that differ significantly in terms of their grammatical morphology.
3. The preference of bilingual Swahili-English agrammatic speakers for verb forms referring to the present rather than to the past in their speech is a result of difficulties with discourse linked elements following brain damage.
4. Bilingual Swahili-English agrammatic speakers are not clinically very different from monolingual English agrammatic speakers in terms of how their communicative abilities are affected following brain damage.
5. The agrammatic speakers' production and comprehension is influenced by time reference to the past through verb inflection, derived word order and embedding irrespective of the morphological complexity of their language.
6. The agrammatic speakers' abilities to process discourse linked elements (reference to the past) as well as complex structures (derived word order and embedded sentences) were seriously affected, but not completely absent, thus reflecting a processing rather than a representational deficit.
7. It is recommendable for therapy purposes that (bilingual) individuals with agrammatism are explicitly instructed using simple sentence structures in order to improve their communicative abilities.
8. For cross-language generalization of treatment, it is sufficient for clinicians to test and treat only one of the languages of a bilingual agrammatic speaker if the patient was pre-morbidly highly proficient in both languages.
9. Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known. (Carl Sagan)
10. The story is always better than your ability to write it. My belief about this is that if you ever get to the point that you think you've done a story justice, you're in the wrong business. (Robin McKinley)